

African migrants are packed into cramped cells next to corpses in Saudi Arabia to stop them spreading coronavirus

[Mark Hodge](#) 1 Sep 2020,

HORRIFIC pictures show African migrants crammed into squalid cells in Saudi Arabia as part of the kingdom's drive to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The disturbing images taken from inside the cells by prisoners show dozens of men lying shirtless in the windowless rooms in sweltering heat.



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Saudi officials allowed hundreds of Ethiopians to enter the countryCredit: The Telegraph



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Saudi Arabia arbitrarily detained them in 'unsanitary and abusive facilities', says Human Rights Watch
Credit: The Telegraph



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Two of the incarcerated men were pictured with scarred backsCredit: The Telegraph

According to the [Telegraph](#), one shocking photo appears to show a corpse covered by a blanket.

The news outlet says the migrant who took the picture claims the man died of heatstroke and said other prisoners are barely given enough water and food to survive.

In one image, which is too graphic to show, a teenager is

shown hanged after "losing hope."

Many of the prisoners have been held in the cells since April.

Other images show huge scars on the backs of two of the men.

It is claimed that prisoners are beaten by guards who also racially abuse them.

Abebe, an Ethiopia who has been held at one of the facilities for over four months, said: "It's hell in here.





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Women were shown having to stand in water after rain flooded into one detention centreCredit: human rights watch



They were among the thousands of Ethiopian migrants that Houthi forces forcibly removed

Houthi forces expelled thousands of Ethiopian migrants from northern Yemen using Covid-19 as a pretext Credit: human rights watch



In June and July, Human Rights Watch interviewed 19 Ethiopian migrants

"We are treated like animals and beaten every day."

The migrant, who communicated with the news outlet on a smuggled mobile phone, added: "My only crime is leaving my country in search of a better life."

"But they beat us with whips and electric cords as if we were murderers."

Another inmate says the guards "throw the bodies out back as if it was trash."

Many of the men suffer from painful skin infections and claim to have received no medical help, it has been reported.

The disturbing pictures have been slammed by human rights groups and come during Black Lives Matter protests around the world.

Saudi, which uses migrant labour from Africa and Asia for construction and other manual jobs, had around 6.6 million foreign workers last year, according to data compiled in June, 2019.



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The Telegraph says the detention centres in the photos house mainly Ethiopian men although there are believed to be similar facilities for women.

Nearly 3,000 Ethiopians were deported by Saudi security services in the first ten days of April over fears migrants

would act as vectors for the disease.

A leaked UN memo showed that 200,000 others were to be deported before a moratorium was placed on deportations after international pressure.



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The men are suffering from skin conditions during their incarcerationCredit:
human rights watch



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Men are sleeping on the hard floorCredit: youtube/humansrightWatch



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Another man was shown with skin problems due to unhygienic conditions



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The migrants are being packed in to the centres in Saudi ArabiaCredit:
[youtube/humansrightWatch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8W00033333333333333333)



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Human Rights Watch said the toilets were 'overflowing and the people were sleeping on that'Credit: Human rights watch



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Unsanitary conditions could be seen in the video
Credit:
[youtube/humansrightWatch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv38003330569403172984)